

REMARKS

The Abstract is amended to comply with the 150-word requirement. No new matter is introduced in the application by way of this amendment to the Abstract. Therefore, entry of this amendment and consideration of the application in view thereof is requested.

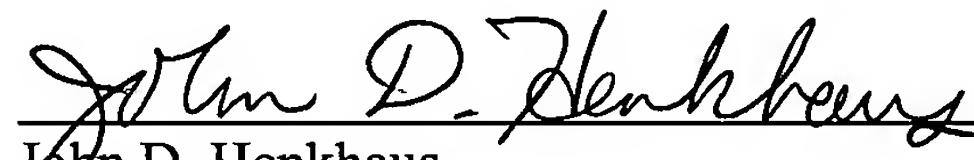
The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Please charge any shortages or credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

HICKMAN PALERMO TRUONG & BECKER LLP


Date: 1/28/05


John D. Henkhaus
Reg. No. 42,656

2055 Gateway Place, Suite 550
San Jose, CA 95110-1089
(408) 414-1080
Facsimile: (408) 414-1076

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

on 1/28/05 by 
Darer Sakamoto

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:

In the context of a constraint-based or rule-based model, in which ~~model entities, or~~ nodes, are interrelated by constraints, rules, and conditions ~~or the like~~, addition of and changes to ~~entity instances~~ nodes need to be validated against relevant constraints. A mechanism is provided for performing such validation without loading the entire configuration, which includes a set of constraints and a set of node variables. ~~In an embodiment, an intent to modify a node is received.~~ In response to an intent to modify a node, a subset of the set of constraints is determined, which. ~~The subset of constraints~~ includes all constraints that restrict the intent to modify. Further, a subset of the set of node variables is determined, which. ~~The subset of node variables~~ includes all node variables that may have ~~associated~~ values that affect whether any of the subset of constraints is violated. A subset of node variable information is loaded into volatile memory, which. ~~The subset of information~~ includes only information about the subset of node variables, rather than information about all of the nodes of the model. ~~According to one aspect, the neighborhood of nodes is dynamically extended if necessary to enact an actual requested modification to a node.~~